

## A Present from an Enemy

By HOWARD FIELDING, Copyright, 1904, by Charles W. Hooks.

"DON'T bother to light your lamp," said the traveling salesman. "I can see to drink in the dark."

"We'll get some moonlight if I leave the curtain up," responded the druggist, "though I'm on the shady side of the street."

"I guess that's where you want to be in such a dry town as this," said the salesman. "The shadier you are the more business you can do. Are they making you much trouble?"

The druggist had put some glasses and a bottle upon a table and had glanced toward the window to assure himself that no one could see in from the street. The other side of the way was all in vivid moonlight; the snow sparkled with myriad jewels, and the white fronts of the quaint old stores glared as if the worn paint upon them had been miraculously renewed. In the midst of the brightness appeared the tall figure of a man clothed all in black. He walked briskly to one of the stores and halted, disappointed.

"There's a customer for you," said the salesman. "Your venerable competitor has shut up shop for the night."

"That man will never come over here," said the druggist. "He trades exclusively with Dr. Columbus Hatch, my venerable competitor."

"Matter of sentiment, I suppose. Hatch is an old timer, and you're an intruder."

The druggist tapped the bottle with a pencil.

"It's a matter of that," he said. "Temperance crank?" queried the salesman, setting down his glass.

"Well, I'd hardly like to call that fellow a crank," said the druggist. "He's a smooth proposition. I'm more afraid of him than of all the others put together. He'll run me out of this town if I don't look sharp."

"Who is he?"

"Minister of the Stone church, up on Court street. His name is Ormond Davis."

The salesman walked to the window and cautiously looked out. The Rev. Mr. Davis was standing on the rickety wooden platform in front of Dr. Columbus Hatch's store and was intently viewing the moonlight on the river. His face was clearly illumined.

"That man looks mighty familiar to me," said the salesman. "How long has he been in this town?"

"A couple of years," was the reply. "He seems to have considerable 'pull' even with people who don't go to his church or to any church at all. I've had trouble with him, and I'm going to have more."

"This is the first chance I've had to do business for myself," he continued.



THE SALESMAN WALKED TO THE WINDOW.

"I was clerk in a New York store and was on a vacation when I happened to strike this town. It's a great place in the summer. I stopped off here a few days and found that there was no druggist except that old fossil Hatch, who is the worst prohibition crank in the bunch and wouldn't sell whisky even on a prescription."

"Well, I had a few hundred dollars, and I came down here and took this store, getting my stock on credit. In a little more than a year I've squared up everything and have laid some money away."

"Must be a thirsty town," said Barnes.

"It's a town where the thirsty ones have to come to me," said the druggist, "and take what I give 'em and pay my price for it. See?"

"As I sell you most of your back room stock," said Barnes, with a laugh, "I see perfectly."

Barnes was staring out of the window.

"I believe I'll take a closer look at that fellow," said he. "I'll be back in a few minutes."

The Rev. Mr. Davis had turned from his contemplation of the river and had begun to ascend the hill. From his window the druggist saw Barnes cross the street and follow in the minister's steps. It may have been twenty minutes later when he returned to the store. He seemed much perplexed.

"Dr. Sempler, this is a queer case," he said. "I could swear that that fel-

low is John Davis, whom I used to know fifteen or eighteen years ago in Gloucester."

"Did you speak to him?" asked the druggist.

Barnes shook his head.

"He can't be John Davis," he answered, "because John Davis is dead, and if there's any way to figure out that he is John Davis you don't want him to be put upon his guard just yet."

Sempler showed his excitement.

"You don't mean to tell me that there's anything crooked about this man?" he demanded. "That would be too good to be true."

"I'll give you the facts," said Barnes. "That's all I can do. John Davis was a Gloucester boy, and I used to go there often in the summer. I hadn't any real acquaintance with Davis, but I saw him often. He was clerk in a bank, and the bank was robbed—an inside job. The cashier got most of the money, but Davis was in the game somewhere, and he ran away. They caught him in Bangor and were bringing him back on a steamer. He was stronger than an ox, and the officer who had him was afraid of him, so he had him handcuffed."

"About four miles north of this town, where the steamers run close to Blackburn point, Davis jumped overboard with the handcuffs still on his wrists. That shows what a desperate fellow he was. It was in the evening and quite dark, but the officer saw Davis swimming with his hands stuck out in front of him. Then he sank, and that was the end of him. I wonder that you never heard the story, though it's nearly twenty years old now."

The druggist had started up out of his chair and was leaning forward, staring into Barnes' face. His mouth was half open, but he seemed incapable of speaking. Indeed, his aspect was so strange that Barnes took him by the arm and shook him.

"Handcuffs!" gasped Sempler, and he put up his hands to his forehead.

"What the deuce?" his friend began.

"Barnes," explained Sempler, "since the world began there has never been anything like this. I can't believe it. The thing is impossible."

He walked to the table and poured out some liquor. His hand was so unsteady that the bottle rattled against the glass.

"It's incredible, incredible," he continued, choking with the fiery liquid. "But, listen. In October I was walking in the woods, up along the shore of the bay by Blackburn point. I had these with me." And he ripped open a cup-board and took out a big pair of field glasses. "I started to look out over the bay from a little hill on the point and was adjusting my glasses when I happened to focus them on the top of a spruce tree that grew at the foot of a hill. I saw a queer bunch on the tree, and presently I made it out to be some sort of an iron thing that had grown into the wood—a thing with a piece of chain on it. I took it to be a sort of trap which some boy years ago had hung on the tree and forgotten. Barnes, it was a pair of handcuffs!"

"But—but what was it doing way up there on the top of the tree?" stammered Barnes.

"Eighteen years ago," said Sempler, "that tree wasn't more than six feet high."

"Well?"

"Well, this is what happened," continued Sempler. "Your friend Davis slipped one of his cuffs in the water and managed to get ashore. Then he slipped the other cuff and tossed them away, and they caught on the tree, or perhaps he hung them up, thinking the tree would hide them. At any rate, there they are, and you know well enough that a pair of handcuffs in that out of the way place settles the whole story. If they're not John Davis' they're not anybody's. The man didn't drown, and I've got him!"

"This is the strangest thing I ever heard of," said Barnes.

"When you mentioned Blackburn point," said Sempler, "I thought of the only time I was there, and the look of that thing in the tree just leaped up before me like a picture. I must find it."

"That won't be so easy."

"I will find it!" exclaimed Sempler. "And now tell me more about Davis."

"I don't know any more," responded Barnes. "I left Gloucester a few weeks afterward and never went back."

"See this man tomorrow and make sure of him."

"I'll do that," said Barnes, "but it must be on the quiet. I don't want to be dragged into anything as a witness."

Sempler laughed.

"It will be quiet," he said. "Do you suppose I'll say a word to anybody? Not much! This is a private matter between the minister and me. I'll let him alone, and he'll let me alone. That's all I'll ask of him. He won't make any trouble if I put up a strong enough bluff. He's engaged to Deacon Holland's daughter—Holland lives right up there by the meeting house—and he won't want his matrimonial plans disturbed, for the deacon has a good bit of money. Barnes—and he tapped the bottle again with a nervous finger—I'm all right."

"Well," said Barnes, "don't talk—don't say anything to anybody—and here's luck to you."

About a week later, on the morning of the 22d of December, a boy came

to the house where the Rev. Ormond Davis was boarding and told him that he was wanted at the church. Rightly judging that the matter had to do with the approaching Christmas observances, Mr. Davis promptly responded to this somewhat indefinite summons.

As he turned the corner into Court street he saw a team of horses harnessed to a sleigh in front of the church, and behind the horses and the vehicle appeared a great green mass which could be nothing but a Christmas tree. It had been Mr. Davis' intention to go out into the woods with some young men of his church that afternoon to secure a tree, and he wondered what member of his congregation had been so prompt and serviceable. His surprise was very great when he perceived that the driver of the team was the new druggist, Edward Sempler.

"Mr. Davis," said he as the minister came close, "we haven't been good friends, but I hope we'll be better. I have brought you a peace offering."

"I can be at peace with you, Mr. Sempler," replied the clergyman gravely.

His presence, and therefore I shall accept his gift publicly. I shall take these handcuffs, this badge of my old folly, publicly from this tree, and I shall attempt to extract a moral from it in a brief address. Does this course meet your view, Amy?"

"I trust both your judgment and your honor," said she.

"Sempler," said Deacon Holland, "if you weren't ruined in this community before, you certainly are now. When this story gets around the worst man in town will be ashamed to be seen going into your store."

It remains to be said that this prophecy was fulfilled to all intents and purposes very speedily.

Attention to go out into the woods with some young men of his church that afternoon to secure a tree, and he wondered what member of his congregation had been so prompt and serviceable. His surprise was very great when he perceived that the driver of the team was the new druggist, Edward Sempler.

"Mr. Davis," said he as the minister came close, "we haven't been good friends, but I hope we'll be better. I have brought you a peace offering."

"I can be at peace with you, Mr. Sempler," replied the clergyman gravely.

his presence, and therefore I shall accept his gift publicly. I shall take these handcuffs, this badge of my old folly, publicly from this tree, and I shall attempt to extract a moral from it in a brief address. Does this course meet your view, Amy?"

"I trust both your judgment and your honor," said she.

"Sempler," said Deacon Holland, "if you weren't ruined in this community before, you certainly are now. When this story gets around the worst man in town will be ashamed to be seen going into your store."

It remains to be said that this prophecy was fulfilled to all intents and purposes very speedily.

Attention to go out into the woods with some young men of his church that afternoon to secure a tree, and he wondered what member of his congregation had been so prompt and serviceable. His surprise was very great when he perceived that the driver of the team was the new druggist, Edward Sempler.

"Mr. Davis," said he as the minister came close, "we haven't been good friends, but I hope we'll be better. I have brought you a peace offering."

"I can be at peace with you, Mr. Sempler," replied the clergyman gravely.

his presence, and therefore I shall accept his gift publicly. I shall take these handcuffs, this badge of my old folly, publicly from this tree, and I shall attempt to extract a moral from it in a brief address. Does this course meet your view, Amy?"

"I trust both your judgment and your honor," said she.

"Sempler," said Deacon Holland, "if you weren't ruined in this community before, you certainly are now. When this story gets around the worst man in town will be ashamed to be seen going into your store."

It remains to be said that this prophecy was fulfilled to all intents and purposes very speedily.

Attention to go out into the woods with some young men of his church that afternoon to secure a tree, and he wondered what member of his congregation had been so prompt and serviceable. His surprise was very great when he perceived that the driver of the team was the new druggist, Edward Sempler.

"Mr. Davis," said he as the minister came close, "we haven't been good friends, but I hope we'll be better. I have brought you a peace offering."

"I can be at peace with you, Mr. Sempler," replied the clergyman gravely.

his presence, and therefore I shall accept his gift publicly. I shall take these handcuffs, this badge of my old folly, publicly from this tree, and I shall attempt to extract a moral from it in a brief address. Does this course meet your view, Amy?"

"I trust both your judgment and your honor," said she.

"Sempler," said Deacon Holland, "if you weren't ruined in this community before, you certainly are now. When this story gets around the worst man in town will be ashamed to be seen going into your store."

It remains to be said that this prophecy was fulfilled to all intents and purposes very speedily.

Attention to go out into the woods with some young men of his church that afternoon to secure a tree, and he wondered what member of his congregation had been so prompt and serviceable. His surprise was very great when he perceived that the driver of the team was the new druggist, Edward Sempler.

"Mr. Davis," said he as the minister came close, "we haven't been good friends, but I hope we'll be better. I have brought you a peace offering."

"I can be at peace with you, Mr. Sempler," replied the clergyman gravely.

his presence, and therefore I shall accept his gift publicly. I shall take these handcuffs, this badge of my old folly, publicly from this tree, and I shall attempt to extract a moral from it in a brief address. Does this course meet your view, Amy?"

"I trust both your judgment and your honor," said she.

"Sempler," said Deacon Holland, "if you weren't ruined in this community before, you certainly are now. When this story gets around the worst man in town will be ashamed to be seen going into your store."

It remains to be said that this prophecy was fulfilled to all intents and purposes very speedily.

Attention to go out into the woods with some young men of his church that afternoon to secure a tree, and he wondered what member of his congregation had been so prompt and serviceable. His surprise was very great when he perceived that the driver of the team was the new druggist, Edward Sempler.

"Mr. Davis," said he as the minister came close, "we haven't been good friends, but I hope we'll be better. I have brought you a peace offering."

"I can be at peace with you, Mr. Sempler," replied the clergyman gravely.

his presence, and therefore I shall accept his gift publicly. I shall take these handcuffs, this badge of my old folly, publicly from this tree, and I shall attempt to extract a moral from it in a brief address. Does this course meet your view, Amy?"

"I trust both your judgment and your honor," said she.

"Sempler," said Deacon Holland, "if you weren't ruined in this community before, you certainly are now. When this story gets around the worst man in town will be ashamed to be seen going into your store."

It remains to be said that this prophecy was fulfilled to all intents and purposes very speedily.

Attention to go out into the woods with some young men of his church that afternoon to secure a tree, and he wondered what member of his congregation had been so prompt and serviceable. His surprise was very great when he perceived that the driver of the team was the new druggist, Edward Sempler.

"Mr. Davis," said he as the minister came close, "we haven't been good friends, but I hope we'll be better. I have brought you a peace offering."

"I can be at peace with you, Mr. Sempler," replied the clergyman gravely.

his presence, and therefore I shall accept his gift publicly. I shall take these handcuffs, this badge of my old folly, publicly from this tree, and I shall attempt to extract a moral from it in a brief address. Does this course meet your view, Amy?"

"I trust both your judgment and your honor," said she.

"Sempler," said Deacon Holland, "if you weren't ruined in this community before, you certainly are now. When this story gets around the worst man in town will be ashamed to be seen going into your store."

It remains to be said that this prophecy was fulfilled to all intents and purposes very speedily.

Attention to go out into the woods with some young men of his church that afternoon to secure a tree, and he wondered what member of his congregation had been so prompt and serviceable. His surprise was very great when he perceived that the driver of the team was the new druggist, Edward Sempler.

"Mr. Davis," said he as the minister came close, "we haven't been good friends, but I hope we'll be better. I have brought you a peace offering."

"I can be at peace with you, Mr. Sempler," replied the clergyman gravely.

his presence, and therefore I shall accept his gift publicly. I shall take these handcuffs, this badge of my old folly, publicly from this tree, and I shall attempt to extract a moral from it in a brief address. Does this course meet your view, Amy?"

"I trust both your judgment and your honor," said she.

"Sempler," said Deacon Holland, "if you weren't ruined in this community before, you certainly are now. When this story gets around the worst man in town will be ashamed to be seen going into your store."

his presence, and therefore I shall accept his gift publicly. I shall take these handcuffs, this badge of my old folly, publicly from this tree, and I shall attempt to extract a moral from it in a brief address. Does this course meet your view, Amy?"

"I trust both your judgment and your honor," said she.

"Sempler," said Deacon Holland, "if you weren't ruined in this community before, you certainly are now. When this story gets around the worst man in town will be ashamed to be seen going into your store."

It remains to be said that this prophecy was fulfilled to all intents and purposes very speedily.

Attention to go out into the woods with some young men of his church that afternoon to secure a tree, and he wondered what member of his congregation had been so prompt and serviceable. His surprise was very great when he perceived that the driver of the team was the new druggist, Edward Sempler.

"Mr. Davis," said he as the minister came close, "we haven't been good friends, but I hope we'll be better. I have brought you a peace offering."

"I can be at peace with you, Mr. Sempler," replied the clergyman gravely.

his presence, and therefore I shall accept his gift publicly. I shall take these handcuffs, this badge of my old folly, publicly from this tree, and I shall attempt to extract a moral from it in a brief address. Does this course meet your view, Amy?"

"I trust both your judgment and your honor," said she.

"Sempler," said Deacon Holland, "if you weren't ruined in this community before, you certainly are now. When this story gets around the worst man in town will be ashamed to be seen going into your store."

It remains to be said that this prophecy was fulfilled to all intents and purposes very speedily.

Attention to go out into the woods with some young men of his church that afternoon to secure a tree, and he wondered what member of his congregation had been so prompt and serviceable. His surprise was very great when he perceived that the driver of the team was the new druggist, Edward Sempler.

"Mr. Davis," said he as the minister came close, "we haven't been good friends, but I hope we'll be better. I have brought you a peace offering."

"I can be at peace with you, Mr. Sempler," replied the clergyman gravely.

his presence, and therefore I shall accept his gift publicly. I shall take these handcuffs, this badge of my old folly, publicly from this tree, and I shall attempt to extract a moral from it in a brief address. Does this course meet your view, Amy?"

"I trust both your judgment and your honor," said she.

"Sempler," said Deacon Holland, "if you weren't ruined in this community before, you certainly are now. When this story gets around the worst man in town will be ashamed to be seen going into your store."

It remains to be said that this prophecy was fulfilled to all intents and purposes very speedily.

Attention to go out into the woods with some young men of his church that afternoon to secure a tree, and he wondered what member of his congregation had been so prompt and serviceable. His surprise was very great when he perceived that the driver of the team was the new druggist, Edward Sempler.

"Mr. Davis," said he as the minister came close, "we haven't been good friends, but I hope we'll be better. I have brought you a peace offering."

"I can be at peace with you, Mr. Sempler," replied the clergyman gravely.

his presence, and therefore I shall accept his gift publicly. I shall take these handcuffs, this badge of my old folly, publicly from this tree, and I shall attempt to extract a moral from it in a brief address. Does this course meet your view, Amy?"

"I trust both your judgment and your honor," said she.

"Sempler," said Deacon Holland, "if you weren't ruined in this community before, you certainly are now. When this story gets around the worst man in town will be ashamed to be seen going into your store."

It remains to be said that this prophecy was fulfilled to all intents and purposes very speedily.

Attention to go out into the woods with some young men of his church that afternoon to secure a tree, and he wondered what member of his congregation had been so prompt and serviceable. His surprise was very great when he perceived that the driver of the team was the new druggist, Edward Sempler.

"Mr. Davis," said he as the minister came close, "we haven't been good friends, but I hope we'll be better. I have brought you a peace offering."

"I can be at peace with you, Mr. Sempler," replied the clergyman gravely.

his presence, and therefore I shall accept his gift publicly. I shall take these handcuffs, this badge of my old folly, publicly from this tree, and I shall attempt to extract a moral from it in a brief address. Does this course meet your view, Amy?"

"I trust both your judgment and your honor," said she.

"Sempler," said Deacon Holland, "if you weren't ruined in this community before, you certainly are now. When this story gets around the worst man in town will be ashamed to be seen going into your store."

It remains to be said that this prophecy was fulfilled to all intents and purposes very speedily.

Attention to go out into the woods with some young men of his church that afternoon to secure a tree, and he wondered what member of his congregation had been so prompt and serviceable. His surprise was very great when he perceived that the driver of the team was the new druggist, Edward Sempler.

"Mr. Davis," said he as the minister came close, "we haven't been good friends, but I hope we'll be better. I have brought you a peace offering."

"I can be at peace with you, Mr. Sempler," replied the clergyman gravely.

his presence, and therefore I shall accept his gift publicly. I shall take these handcuffs, this badge of my old folly, publicly from this tree, and I shall attempt to extract a moral from it in a brief address. Does this course meet your view, Amy?"

"I trust both your judgment and your honor," said she.

"Sempler," said Deacon Holland, "if you weren't ruined in this community before, you certainly are now. When this story gets around the worst man in town will be ashamed to be seen going into your store."

It remains to be said that this prophecy was fulfilled to all intents and purposes very speedily.

Attention to go out into the woods with some young men of his church that afternoon to secure a tree, and he wondered what member of his congregation had been so prompt and serviceable. His surprise was very great when he perceived that the driver of the team was the new druggist, Edward Sempler.

"Mr. Davis," said he as the minister came close, "we haven't been good friends, but I hope we'll be better. I have brought you a peace offering."

"I can be at peace with you, Mr. Sempler," replied the clergyman gravely.

his presence, and therefore I shall accept his gift publicly. I shall take these handcuffs, this badge of my old folly, publicly from this tree, and I shall attempt to extract a moral from it in a brief address. Does this course meet your view, Amy?"

"I trust both your judgment and your honor," said she.

"Sempler," said Deacon Holland, "if you weren't ruined in this community before, you certainly are now. When this story gets around the worst man in town will be ashamed to be seen going into your store."

It remains to be said that this prophecy was fulfilled to all intents and purposes very speedily.

Attention to go out into the woods with some young men of his church that afternoon to secure a tree, and he wondered what member of his congregation had been so prompt and serviceable. His surprise was very great when he perceived that the driver of the team was the new druggist, Edward Sempler.

"Mr. Davis," said he as the minister came close, "we haven't been good friends, but I hope we'll be better. I have brought you a peace offering."

"I can be at peace with you, Mr. Sempler," replied the clergyman gravely.

his presence, and therefore I shall accept his gift publicly. I shall take these handcuffs, this badge of my old folly, publicly from this tree, and I shall attempt to extract a moral from it in a brief address. Does this course meet your view, Amy?"

"I trust both your judgment and your honor," said she.

"Sempler," said Deacon Holland, "if you weren't ruined in this community before, you certainly are now. When this story gets around the worst man in town will be ashamed to be seen going into your store."

It remains to be said that this prophecy was fulfilled to all intents and purposes very speedily.

Attention to go out into the woods with some young men of his church that afternoon to secure a tree, and he wondered what member of his congregation had been so prompt and serviceable. His surprise was very great when he perceived that the driver of the team was the new druggist, Edward Sempler.

"Mr. Davis," said he as the minister came close, "we haven't been good friends, but I hope we'll be better. I have brought you a peace offering."

"I can be at peace with you, Mr. Sempler," replied the clergyman gravely.

## Our Great Removal Sale of High Grade Wall Paper Is a Phenomenal Success.

Now is the best opportunity to secure bargains as we will move to our new location January 1st, and in the meanwhile we are selling wall paper at prices lower than you have ever seen it before. Call and inspect our elegant lines.